

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 09/622,388
Final Office Action dated: July 14, 2005
Response dated: December 12, 2005

PATENT
RCA 88,914

Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action mailed July 14, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32 have been amended. Claims 1-32 are pending.

Claims 1-6, 11-16, 18-23, and 27-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,160,545 to Eyer et al. (hereinafter "Eyer"). Claims 7-10, 17, and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eyer in view of United States Patent No. 6,172,677 to Stautner et al. (hereinafter "Stautner").

It is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references teach or suggest "channel mapping information enabling a user of said decoding apparatus to select between different groups of broadcast services collated by non-inclusive areas to reduce data filtering by the decoding apparatus", as now recited in amended independent Claims 1, 15, 18, 31 and 32.

Moreover, it is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references teach or suggest "channel mapping information suitable for enabling a user of a reproduction device for playing said digital data to be able select between different groups of broadcast services and associated tables and objects collated by non-inclusive areas to reduce data filtering by the reproduction device", as now recited in amended independent Claim 16.

Support for the preceding amendments to Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32 may be found at least at page 7, line 8 to page 8, line 26.

The Examiner has cited column 10, lines 7 to column 11, line 65+ of Eyer against the previous un-amended versions of the above-recited limitations Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32. The cited section of Eyer discloses "[e]ach IRD receives the same global and region-specific IPG bundles. However, in accordance with the present invention, IRD data bundles are filtered out in hardware based on multicast addresses so a specific IRD only needs to store and process IPG data for its region, along with the global IPG data. ... The use of bundled data blocks allows regional IPG data to be multicast addressed to the IRDs in the corresponding IPG regions while still broadcasting national (e.g., global) IPG data" (Eyer, col. 10, lines 18-39).

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Thus, in accordance with Eyer, a global data bundle and a plurality of multicast region-specific data bundles are sent to each IRD. However, in contrast to the teachings of the present invention, Eyer discloses that "IRD bundles are filtered out in hardware based on multicast addresses so a specific IRD only needs to store and process IPG data for its region, along with the global IPG data" (Eyer, col. 9, lines 20-23). Accordingly, while the present invention allows a user to select between different groups of broadcast services collated by NON-INCLUSIVE AREAS (as recited in Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32), Eyer discloses that an IRD ultimately only stores ONE region-specific bundle and an INCLUSIVE (by definition) global bundle. Moreover, while the present invention provides the preceding to reduce data filtering by a decoding apparatus/device (as recited in Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32), Eyer TEACHES AWAY from the present invention by multicasting all data to all IRDs and then performing filtering on each IRD to filter out all region-specific bundles except for the one region-specific bundle corresponding to a given IRD.

It is not surprising that Eyer does not disclose all of the limitations of Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32, as Eyer is directed to a different invention/approach than that taken by the claimed invention. For example, Eyer is relying upon multicast as the basis for transmitting data. However, inherent to multicast is that each receiver receives the same data. Thus, filtering must then be performed at each receiver to filter out "irrelevant data" which, based upon a reading of Eyer (see above), includes region-specific data for regions other than that in which a corresponding IRD is located (see also, Eyer, col. 2, lines 11-13). Moreover, the user is ultimately only able to select from the one single region-specific bundle and the global bundle. Thus, bandwidth (from a transmitter to the IRD) is unnecessarily consumed (by transmitting ALL bundles via multicast), as well as processing and memory resources to filter out the irrelevant data (all region-specific bundles except for the one single region-specific bundle for the region in which the IRD is located) at the IRD. In contrast, the present invention reduces the burden on each receiver (and on the transmission medium itself (e.g., bandwidth)), by providing the channel mapping information enabling a user of the decoding apparatus to select between different groups of broadcast services collated by non-inclusive areas to reduce data filtering by the decoding apparatus. In this way, a user may receive data for more than one region,

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but not for all regions and not with filtering being required at the decoder (for all of the region-specific bundles except the one region-specific bundle, while still leaving the user with only a selection between the global and the one region-specific bundle) as per Eyer.

Accordingly, Eyer does not disclose all of the above-limitations of Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32. Moreover, Stautner does not cure the deficiencies of Eyer, and is silent with respect to the above-recited limitations of Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32. That is, Eyer, either taken singly or in combination with Stautner, does not teach or suggest the above-recited limitations of Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32. In fact, the combination teaches away, as described above.

A reference cited against a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 must disclose each and every limitation of the rejected claim. Moreover, "[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art" (MPEP §2143.03, citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)). Further, "[i]f an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious" (MPEP §2143.03, citing *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)).

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 31, and 32 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited reference for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-14 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 1 and, thus, include all the limitations of Claim 1. Claim 17 depends from Claim 16 and, thus, includes all the limitations of Claim 16. Claims 19-30 depend from Claim 18 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 18 and, thus, include all the limitations of Claim 18. Accordingly, Claims 2-14, 17, and 19-30 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1, 16, and 18, respectively.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of July 14, 2005 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-32 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

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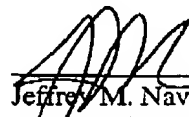
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A two-month petition for an extension of time to respond is enclosed. Please charge the fee of \$450.00 to applicants' Deposit Account No. 07-0832. It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due with regard to this response. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicants' Deposit Account No.07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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